

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 311419Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3982

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 8463

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: LOPEZ REGA FAILS TO APPEAR IN COURT

REF: A) BA 8451; B) BA 8295

1. LOPEZ REGA FAILED TO APPEAR FOR HIS SCHEDULED COURT APPEARANCE DECEMBER 29 BEFORE FEDERAL JUDGE FASOLINO WHO IS INVESTIGATING ALLEGED MISHANDLING OF FUNDS IN THE CRUZADA DE LA SOLIDARIDAD. INSTEAD, HIS DAUGHTER, NORMA LOPEZ REGA DE LASTIRI, PRESENTED A CERTIFICATE SUPPOSEDLY SIGNED BY SPANISH DR. FRANCISCO JOSE FLORES TASCON AND DATED DECEMBER 19 IN MADRID INDICATING THAT LOPEZ REGA IS "PROHIBITED FROM ANY KIND OF MOVEMENT (DESPLAZAMIENTO) OR TRIP" AS PART OF THE "PRESCRIBED TREATMENT" FOR THE DIABETES HE SUFFERS. THE CERTIFICATE WAS REPORTEDLY MAILED TO MRS. LASTIRI BY HER FATHER FROM THE SPANISH CAPITAL.

2. MRS. LASTIRI, WHO HAS HER FATHER'S POWER-OF-ATTORNEY, INVOKED THIS PRIVILEGE AS HER REASON FOR MAKING THE PRESENTTION. SHE GAVE THE QINTA "OCTOBER 17" AS HIS ADDRESS IN MADRID, BUT CLARIFIED THAT IT IS INLY HIS "MAILING ADDRESS" AND HE DOES NOT RESIDE THERE. WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT HIS ACTUAL RESIDENCE, SHE TOLD THE JUDGE THAT SHE DIDN'T KNOW IT BUT PROMISED TO GIVE IT

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TO THE COURT "WHEN I FIND OUT WHAT IT IS."

3. IN ADDITION, MRS. LASTIRI REQUESTED THAT A NEW DATE BE SET FOR HER FATHER'S APPEARANCE THROUGH NO TIME FRAME WAS REVEALED. SHE ALSO ASKED THAT THE ARREST ORDER AGAINST HIM BE WITHDRAWN. MRS. LASTIRI WAS OBVIOUSLY CONFUSED ON THIS ISSUE. THE ARREST ORDER EXISTS, BUT NOT FOR THIS PARTICULAR CASE. (SEE REF. B)

4. COMMENT: THAT LOPEZ REGA FAILED TO APPEAR SURPRISED NO ONE. AND FEW, IF ANY, OBSERVERS WILL BELIEVE HIS MEDICAL EXCUSE ESPECIALLY IN THE LIGHT OF A HIGHLY PUBLICIZED REPORT IN THE PERONIST NEWSPAPER MAYORIA ON DECEMBER 11. THE REPORT, FILED BY THE PAPER'S MADRID CORRESPONDENT, QUOTED THE SAME DR. TASCON AS SAYING THAT LOPEZ REGA "NOW RECOVERED FROM HIS DIABETIC AFFECTION" WAS GETTING READY TO TRAVEL TO ARGENTINA "TO DEFEND HIMSELF AGAINST ALL THE SLANDERS THAT HAVE BEEN COMMITTED AGAINST HIM." (PERHAPS THIS REINCIDENCE OF DIABETES WAS ALSO THE MOTIVE BEHIND THE WITHDRAWAL OF HIS "ROVING" AMBASSADORSHIP.) FOR THE MOMENT, HE APPEARS TO HAVE SIDESTEPPED THE COURT BUT HOW MUCH TIME HE HAS BOUGHT FOR HIMSELF IS OPEN TO QUESTION. THE NEXT MOVE IS UP TO JUDGE FASOLINO AND WILL PROBABLY INVOLVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW DATE FOR LOPEZ REGA'S APPEARANCE IN COURT.

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